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Letter dated 6 December 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the letter of Zoran Zizic, President of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, relative to the deteriorating situation in the Ground Safety Zone in the Presevo Valley in southern Serbia, the constituent Republic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to you.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Mladenovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 6 December 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In their letters of 22 and 27 November 2000 addressed to your predecessors (see S/2000/1123), the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Vojislav Kostunica and the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Goran Svilanovic expressed deep concern over the deterioration of the situation in the Ground Safety Zone in the Presevo Valley in southern Serbia. It is an uncontestable fact that despite their clear obligations under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the Military-Technical Agreement, KFOR and UNMIK have allowed large armed groups of Albanian terrorists from Kosovo and Metohija to enter the Ground Safety Zone and carry out armed attacks, including by heavy weapons, on lightly armed members of the police. On that occasion four policemen and one civilian were killed, while five policemen were gravely or lightly wounded. The local police were therefore compelled to abandon their positions in the Ground Safety Zone which, under the provisions of the Military-Technical Agreement, they are obliged to control.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in anticipation of adequate reaction by the Security Council and other influential international factors, has taken urgent diplomatic steps aimed at calming the situation and requested the most responsible international factors, primarily UNMIK and KFOR, to take appropriate measures in view of their responsibilities under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the Military-Technical Agreement. The Government leaned fully on the authority of the Security Council and the condemnation of these terrorist acts by the international community. However, it is its duty to note with regret that the situation in the field has not changed and that there is no effective prevention of the violation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the Military-Technical Agreement, i.e., that no measures are being taken to compel the infiltrated armed groups to withdraw and disarm without delay.

The latest developments in Kosovo and Metohija indicate clearly that not only classic terrorist acts are at stake, but also political violence which should be stopped. Facts bear out that the overall security situation continues to deteriorate. According to the latest information, over 1,000 terrorists from the area of Kosovo and Metohija are still on the positions they have taken in the Ground Safety Zone from which they threaten the security of citizens and major routes in southern Serbia. At the same time communications of some tens of thousands of Serbs living in the eastern part of Kosovo and Metohija with other parts of Serbia have been cut off. The most recent escalation of violence in the Ground Safety Zone represents only the continuity of the terrorist activity begun after the arrival of KFOR and UNMIK to the area of Kosovo and Metohija. This is revealed by the following data: from 10 June 1999 to 5 December 2000, Albanian terrorists carried out about 400 armed attacks, provocations and raids in the Ground Safety Zone, more than 300 of them were attacks on Ministry of the Interior facilities and members and on civilian facilities; 19 persons were killed in those attacks, 8 civilians and 11 policemen; 39 policemen and 3 civilians were wounded; and 3 persons were abducted. These attacks have intensified, in particular since 1 June 2000, in which period over 280 attacks have been carried out.

It is evident that failure to take appropriate measures only encourages extremists in Kosovo and Metohija to speed up the process of ethnic cleansing of the Serbian and other non-Albanian population, thus preventing their return to Kosovo and Metohija, which moves us further away from the implementation of the main goals of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and threatens peace and security in the region even more.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia remains committed to the consistent implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the Military-Technical Agreement and, for its part, will continue to invest efforts in overcoming the serious problem through dialogue and in cooperation with the international community. The situation can be stabilized and deliberate attempts at spilling violence outside Kosovo and Metohija can be prevented only if international security and civil presences fulfil their mandate in its entirety in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expects and requests it.

Considering the exceptional gravity of the situation, the Federal Government requests the Security Council urgently to consider this question again in the light of the deterioration of the situation in the Ground Safety Zone, to condemn most strongly the terrorist acts of armed Albanian extremists and to ask KFOR and UNMIK to take effective measures without delay in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) so as to compel terrorists to withdraw from the Ground Safety Zone and to have the regime in the Zone fully respected.

(*Signed*) Zoran **Zizic**